Appl. No. 09/551,871 Response filed on April 26, 2001

like. Preferred are acrylic acid esters and methacrylic acid esters. The metal ion which neutralizes a portion of carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer or terpolymer includes a sodium ion, a potassium ion, a lithium ion, a magnesium ion, a calcium ion, a zinc ion, a barium ion, an aluminum ion, a tin ion, a zirconium ion, cadmium ion, and the like. Preferred are sodium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and the like, in view of rebound characteristics, durability and the like—

## In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a core consisting of an inner core and an outer core formed on the inner core, and one or more layers of cover covering the core,

wherein the inner core has a diameter of 30 to 40.4 mm, a surface hardness in JIS-C hardness of 60 to 85, and a center hardness in JIS-C hardness of the inner core is lower than the surface hardness by 5 to 30, and

the outer core has a thickness of 0.2 to 1.3 mm, and a surface hardness in JIS-C hardness of the outer core is lower than the surface hardness of the inner core by 2 to 30.